

the birds with great care. It is an universal custom at fairs, especially at fairs in honour of Mari or Bhaváni, to offer cocks to the goddess. The head is cut off in front of the idol and the body is carried away by the worshipper and eaten. Fowls are offered for sale in the Kárwar and Kumta markets. In villages they are kept only for private use. A fowl in good condition costs 1s. to 1s. 3d. (8-10 *ans.*), a half fowl 6d. to 9d. (4-6 *ans.*), and a chicken 3d. to 4½d. (2-3 *ans.*). No eggs are exported. In Kárwar many turkeys and ducks are reared by Christians of the better sort. Turkeys and ducks are also largely imported from Goa. A turkey-cock costs about 10s. (Rs. 5) and a turkey-hen 4s. to 6s. (Rs. 2-Rs. 3). Ducks are sold at 10s. (Rs. 5) the dozen.

Thirty¹ years ago the Wild Eléphant, *Elephas indicus, áne K., hatti M.*, was a yearly visitor from Maisur to Kánara. Small herds used to find their way from Sorab, through the Chandragutti hills, into parts of Sirsi, and even as far north as Bhagvati, half-way between Haliyál and Yellápur. Three miles south of Bhagvati a small pond on the roadside is still known as the áñchonda or Elephant's Pool, where wild elephants used to drink and sport. These herds did not remain in Kánara throughout the year. Their last visit was made in 1868.

The Tiger, *Felis tigris, hebbuli K., vág M.*, was thirty years ago found in all parts of the Bombay Kánareso districts. The wild animal reward returns seem to show that the last tiger shot in Kaládgí was in 1857. But the returns are apt to confuse tigers and panthers, and it is probable that tigers continued to be killed in Kaládgí for some years later. In Belgaum tigers were formerly very numerous. As many as thirty-nine were killed in 1840-41. They are now seldom heard of except in the south-west of the Bidi sub-division close to the Kánara border. In Dhárwár also tigers are now scarce. Those that are met with no doubt find their way from Kánara. Kánara is the only one of the Bombay Kánareso districts where tigers are found in any numbers, and even in Kánara their number has considerably decreased within the last few years. Still in most parts of the district they are not uncommon and if the shooting is properly managed fair bags may be made. The tiger's favourite haunts are near the Sahyádris where they breed in the wildest and most difficult parts. But they love to rest in densely wooded river banks and in safe cool spots in islands thick with thorns, rank grass, and creepers. It is believed that Kánara tigers do not differ in habits, size, or colour from the tigers of other parts of India. They vary in colour from bright to tawny, the beautiful satin skin and the sharply marked stripes of the young tiger growing dull and faint with age. Full-grown tigers average from nine feet to nine feet eight inches. Five have been shot over ten feet, one of which was ten feet two and a half inches. The tigress averages from eight feet to eight feet seven inches. Two have been shot over nine feet, the largest of which measured nine feet two inches.

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¹ The section on Wild Animals is contributed by Colonel W. Peyton, Conservator of Forests S. D.

eaten part of it during the night. Next night a tigress and her two cubs, no doubt accidentally, came across the dead bullock. They were busy eating when the tiger to whom the bullock belonged came up. For some time there was much noise and growling, and then an unmistakeable fight, which lasted for about half an hour. Next morning the people cautiously crept to the scene of the fight and found much of the bullock eaten and the ground greatly torn. On the same morning the story of the fight was told to a sportsman who happened to pass near the hut. He went with the people to the scene of the fight and found that their story was true. A trail in the high grass showed that something heavy had been dragged through it. On following this trail, the forefoot of a young tiger was found, and, within three hours a tiger was beaten out and killed. He measured eight feet eleven inches and was very robust. Further search discovered the young tiger's head and some of the bones, stomach and skin. The tiger shot was a good deal scratched and torn about the face and chest. Two days later, on the 5th of April 1875, another bullock was killed within a mile of the same spot, and in a beat a tigress and a half-grown cub came out and were both shot. This was the tigress of the fight. She was badly mauled, and her wounds were fresh. She measured eight feet six inches and her cub which was a male measured six feet eight inches. On another occasion, in following up a tigress which had been wounded the evening before, one of her cubs was found badly mauled and dead. No doubt in her pain the mother had killed her cub, which had perhaps tried to play with her where she lay during the night.

In attacking cattle tigers either steal in or rush on the herd from some neighbouring thicket. When they secure one of the herd they drag it into the thicket, sometimes at once, but often when they come back towards dusk to feed. If not disturbed they lie up near till the carcass is finished. Unless he is forced to leave the place from want of water the carcass of a large bullock will last a tiger for two, three, or even four days, and the carcass of a bison will last a tiger for a week. Opinions vary regarding the way in which a tiger seizes its prey. Some sportsmen hold that the tiger seizes its prey by the throat; others hold that the victim is caught by the nape of the neck. In nine cases out of ten the animal is seized by the throat. At the same time wounds seen on the back of victims and the statements of herdsmen prove that cattle are sometimes seized from behind, and by the nape of the neck.

It is sometimes said that the tiger uses his dew claws to make the large wounds in the neck and throat, and that he applies his mouth to the wounds and sucks the blood. There is probably no truth in this story, except that it is the case that in seizing their prey tigers use their terrible forepaws to bring the victim down and dislocate his neck. It is not unusual for a tiger to kill two bullocks at the same time, and to drop them within a few yards of each other. Three or four bullocks are also occasionally killed at the same time, and one case is on record in which, in a space of not more than an acre, two tigers killed seven head of cattle. It is well known that to teach her young a tigress will hamstring, break the leg of, or

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disable one or more cattle in a herd. In eating its prey the tiger as a rule begins on the rump, and less commonly at the breast. People who have seen tigers eat, declare that they tear off pieces with their claws, and that they also lick and rasp the flesh with their rough thorny tongues.

In shooting tigers in Kánara sportsmen take up a position in trees, on ladders placed against trees, or on foot standing behind some tree or bush. When the sportsmen are placed, the part of the forest in which the tiger is supposed to lie is beaten towards them by fifty to a hundred or more beaters. Occasionally when the carcass of a bullock is found, the sportsman has a seat or *mechan* made or a ladder planted against some tree within fifteen or twenty yards of the carcass. The sportsman generally takes his seat in the afternoon and waits till dark or sits up all night on the chance that the tiger may come back to finish his prey. Elephants are never used in Kánara as its high trees and dense scrub are unsuited to elephants. In a long beat a seat in a tree is generally uncomfortable. At the same time it is not only safer but gives a better view, especially when the seat is from ten to fifteen feet from the ground. Standing behind a tree or bush or sitting on a low seat has many disadvantages. It is unsafe except to the most tried and experienced sportsman. A tiger writhing under a broken leg or shoulder is most dangerous, and if the slightest move is made will probably catch sight of and dart on the person who fires or on his attendant. Moreover the tiger is by no means an easy mark for the second barrel. As he spins about he is marvellously quick and ball-like in his movements, and the second shot may not settle him but bring him on to the shooter, whose position is betrayed by the second report if not by the first. An old hand will keep a tiger down by quick and true shooting, using a second or a third gun as rapidly as if they were one gun with four or six barrels, or an old hand will wait till a head or neck shot at very close quarters is certain death. But let the novice beware of running so great a risk. A tiger shot through the body will at times not even speak to the shot, though the shot is mortal, and will dash on his way straight in front without showing a sign of being hit. This is not the case when a bone is broken. Then the tiger stops for a moment and makes a startling uproar. Another objection to a position on the ground is that the view is confined to a short distance, in evergreen forests or among *kárví* or *Strobilanthus* stalks to less than ten yards. A third objection to a position on the ground is that in the excitement of the moment a man stationed on the ground is liable to be shot, or in firing in front may himself wound one of the beaters.

The best and most comfortable position is on a light bamboo ladder fifteen to sixteen feet long. This when placed against a tree or bush gives the sportsman a choice of views from a few feet to eleven feet from the ground. A light bamboo ladder with nine or ten flat rungs is extremely useful, not only for tiger shooting but in beating for deer and other large game. It is easily carried by two men and can be placed in position without noise. The higher rungs of a ladder are generally safe. But in

several cases tigers have charged up ladders in the most determined manner and had to be stopped. The commanding position exposes the whole body of the tiger as he comes. This great advantage is lost on foot when the rush is made in thick cover and the head and chest are alone exposed. When a ladder is placed on a slope, facing the high ground, and the tiger is beaten down towards it, there is a considerable chance that the tiger will charge. A recently retired police officer of seventeen years' grand experience in Kánara, whose good fellowship and love of sport made him a welcome and dear companion in many an adventure, twice rolled over a charging tiger at the very foot of his ladder.

In driving for tigers, in fact in driving for any large game, the general management of the beat and the positions to be taken by the guns is mostly left to the local *shikáris* or native hunters. In Kánara each village or cluster of villages has its leader or leaders in matters of sport, and whether the villagers drive on their own account or on behalf of a European sportsman, they look to their leaders for direction.

These local sportsmen have a marvellous knowledge of their own runs or hunting grounds. They know, far better than any European sportsman can hope to know, where the game is likely to lie; they know its ways; where it will make for when it is roused, and where it can be cut off. In arranging a beat the first thing is to choose a dozen or more of the most intelligent beaters for stops or watchers, to be placed in trees at different parts of the ground so as to guide the game towards the guns. The rest of the beaters are sent to some well known spot close to where the beat begins, but not so near as to risk disturbing the game. Their orders are not to leave the spot till they get a signal to begin to beat. When the head beaters are set in their trees and the rest are sent to some well known spot to wait, the head native *shikári*, in the most careful silence, leads off the sportsmen and points out what positions they should take. At each post the sportsman silently chooses the nearest suitable tree, sets his ladder against it, and takes his seat. On the way, on both sides of the ground to be driven, some natives are set on trees as stop-men. They are told to keep still unless the tiger tries to break and should he try to break to make a noise and turn him back into the beat. As a rule when roused from his lair by the shouts of the beaters behind him the tiger moves forward, feeling his way at every step. He moves by the shortest road, always through cover, to some other haunt. He shrinks from any strange sound. The least noise is enough to turn him back. If he sees the stop-man who makes the noise, the chances are that he will dash past him with a deep 'wouf' or subdued roar. The success of the drive greatly depends on the skill of the stops in making suitable noises and on their keeping hid and perfectly still.

When the head of the beat has placed his guns and his stops, he goes back to the beaters or sends them word to begin to beat. In carrying on the beat the moment a shot is fired and the signal is passed that the tiger has gone back wounded, all the beaters either clear out of the beat or get into trees. If a shot is fired but no

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signal is passed back the beat goes on as if no shot had been fired. Cunning old tigers, who have been driven before and know the danger ahead, try to break back. In case this should happen, it is the invariable custom to send with the beaters a trustworthy gun-bearer to fire one or more shots if the tiger refuses to be driven. The gun-bearer is also expected to fire in case the forest is very thick and it is likely that the tiger should keep to his lair till the beaters come close to him. Every care is taken and every effort is made to keep the tiger well in advance of the line of beaters. When the ground that is driven is thin, and there is a likely place for the tiger to lie in near at hand, the line of beaters simply passes through the thin part exchanging a word with one another here and there, but quietly, so that the sound may not reach the parts which are next to be driven.

During the whole beat the gunners who are in position should be careful to keep perfectly still and alert. The tiger often steals forward noiselessly and is ever quick to detect danger in front. The slightest sound may make him dash forward, giving only a snap shot, or it may send him back to the line of beaters, which is always dangerous. Tigers coming from a distance should be patiently awaited. It is well to remember this. If a long shot is taken and the tiger is missed or wounded, he is almost sure to go back, and the beaters have no time to clear out or get up trees before the tiger is on them.

With care accidents seldom happen in tiger shooting. Six have occurred in Kánara, three from wounded tigers, when on each occasion a man was killed; one, when a man was taken some twelve feet out of a tree by an unwounded tiger going back and breaking through the line after having been fired at; and two by panthers.

On one occasion a panther which was being followed up was shot dead off a beater he had knocked down, and on whom he sprang from the shoulders of a sportsman who himself escaped with some scratches only on the face and shoulders by firing at and hitting the brute as he rose at him. The panther was literally blown from the muzzle of the sportsman's second barrel, and without a moment's loss of time. This adventure occurred to Colonel McGillivray, the late well known Superintendent of Police in Kánara, and was as sudden and unexpected as it was well met.

When a tiger is wounded and dashing to one side it is by no means safe for a stop in a tree, unless he is well out of reach, to try and turn him. A few years ago near Mundgod an English sportsman's personal servant, unseen by his master, climbed into a tree behind him and by clapping his hands tried to turn a badly wounded tiger towards his master. In a moment the tiger had hold of him and bit him so badly that the poor boy died. The sportsman killed the tiger soon after, but the accident remained though he was in no way responsible.

It is by no means uncommon for a wounded and angry tiger to dash up a tree and lay hold of the inmate several feet from the ground. Near Dándeli a stop on a low headless tree, near a ford in a river, tried to turn a wounded tiger. The tiger was heard to give a

succession of savage roars and was seen to dash at the tree from some distance. He was in the tree with his cruel paws on the branch just below the man, who could climb no higher, when an express bullet brought him down with a broken back. On another occasion a wounded tiger tried to pull down a boy from a sapling fourteen or fifteen feet from the ground. He must have succeeded had not the sportsmen who were five in number run up together. On seeing them the tiger retired to a thicket, but charged the moment a shot was fired and was dropped within a few paces of the party. The boy was taken down terribly frightened and exhausted. Sportsmen should insist on their followers always getting into high trees safe out of reach.

On one occasion a wounded tiger got terribly enraged and went at the beaters from tree to tree, tearing a slipper to pieces which was thrown at him. At last he lay down, and the sportsman, who had gone in after him, was guided to him by the people on the trees and killed him with a single shot between the eyes, not always a safe shot either, but there was no help as the brute was lying on a narrow pathway about thirty yards off, and had just raised his head preparatory to a charge. Great was the rejoicing over this tiger. He had caused much trouble, and in truth was downright vicious.

When a tiger is wounded the beaters are sent to some safe place and the trail is taken up by the sportsmen helped by the local and personal *shikáris* who follow the track under protection of the guns. On no account are the marks of blood or the foot-mark left on the chance of accidentally coming across the tiger. If accidents are to be guarded against, the party must keep together and on the trail. So long as a sharp watch is kept ahead and the tiger is seen before he makes his rush, the danger is small compared to a sudden charge made unexpectedly from one side.

If a tiger is not found within a short distance from where he was fired at, it may be assumed that he is not badly hurt. He may have to lie down but he moves on when his pursuers come near. In such cases the usual plan is to send one or more guns ahead and post them in trees where the forest narrows, to cut off the tiger from the cover he seems to be making for. If no European sportsmen are available native *shikáris* should be sent with their own or with a spare gun. On no account are beaters used after a wounded tiger, but a few are very useful to take up positions in trees as stops to the guns who are sent ahead. The best gun, or the most experienced of the sportsmen, and another of the party, if there are many out, should remain with a couple or more sharp native trackers on the trail, which must be steadily kept to. This is perhaps the most successful way to hunt down a wounded tiger, for he is brought to book either by the sportsman on his track or by the party ahead. If it is found that the tiger is making for another cover than was at first supposed the positions of the front guns can be quickly changed.

An amusing incident occurred near Yellápur a couple of years ago during the rains. A tiger was wounded and in following him up was seen to be down and move on as he was approached.

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One of the two guns was sent ahead to a narrow part of the forest with cultivation on each side, where there was a pathway, and a well known tree into which he was told to climb. This pathway lay between two rather steep hills covered with dense undergrowth. After a pause the tracking was resumed. It happened to be raining hard and the sportsman found the tree so uncomfortable that he came down. When the tracking party drew near voices were heard below and not more than fifty yards off, which seemed strange as the tiger's foot-marks were very fresh. The position was soon explained. Only a few yards in front of the tracker was the tiger crouching, looking down, and listening to the voices below, which came from some of the beaters who were making their way to a hut in the open close by. In a moment, but too late, the tiger became aware of the party behind him. A shot from an eight-bore went smashing into his shoulder. He made a tremendous row, and struggled hard, but he was never allowed to get on his legs, and was smashed up with five other shots which rained in on him in quick succession. The moment the first shot and the answering roar of the tiger were heard, the beaters, who had no right to be there, made off. The second sportsman manfully held to his place though he could see nothing and was right in the line of fire.

A wounded tiger who lies up within a short distance is badly disabled. On such occasions the chances are that if not floored in time he will charge.

Chances may often be averted by the sportsman's quickness of eye and resource in taking advantage of any hesitation shown by the tiger. There certainly are times when there is no averting a charge, as when the tiger is being approached and cannot be seen. At such moments it is well to bear in mind that the first shot is everything. This is especially the case when the cover is at all thick and damp, for then the smoke hangs. It may be said that at the last moment a tiger is often turned by a shot fired into his face. No trust can be placed on this off-chance. If the sportsman is not confident that he can knock down the tiger and keep it down he had better leave the tiger alone.

In following tigers in thick and difficult cover it is well to send a couple of active young fellows up trees to examine from above the thicket into which the foot-marks lead. In this way the densest cover is searched without losing the trail and with a minimum of danger.

On two or three occasions, when other means had failed, tigers have been killed by one of the guns climbing into a tree. A rifle and plenty of cartridges are handed to the person on the tree, and the other guns either stand at the foot or are sent back out of danger. A few years ago a couple of young sportsmen tracked a wounded tigress into a very difficult place, into which it would have been next to madness for them to creep. They tried every means to drive her out, but to no purpose. At last a man who had been sent up a tree close by declared he could see the tigress, and, as a last resource, it was agreed that one of the two should clamber up and shoot while the other stayed below. As the climber was

struggling up the tree, out rushed the tigress and was gallantly dropped within a few yards by his companion below.

In numerous cases tigers have been known to charge, some with little provocation and others after much provocation. Occasionally tigers will not charge at all. Why they do not charge is not known. But a young sportsman should not trust to the chance that a tiger will not charge, and follow a tiger as he follows a deer. As a rule, if not taken in time, a wounded tiger will charge. As he charges the tiger utters a startling roar which is apt to throw the sportsman off his guard. The effect of the roar on the best and staunchest men is often shown by a step back, but this is only for the moment till the beast is fairly seen. When a tiger continues to struggle on the ground or lies breathing heavily, cartridges should not be spared. Several tigers have been lost by too great a tenderness for the skin. Great care should be taken in coming near a tiger lying to all appearance dead or dying. The beast may be only stunned. A few years ago on the Yellápur hills a tiger was driven from the top of a hill towards a young sportsman on a ladder. From the slope of the hill, the tiger was almost on a level with the top of the ladder, and in the surprise of the moment was missed. The tiger then went galloping across a small bit of open about sixty yards in rear of the next gun. He was missed with the first barrel, but as he got the second he was seen to pitch forward behind a bush. The large double muzzle-loading eight-bore with which he was fired at, was then changed for a 500 express, and the sportsman getting down the ladder ran to within twenty yards of the tiger, which was lying stretched at full length breathing heavily. On seeing this, first one, and then, after putting in a fresh cartridge, another barrel was fired into the beast. He did not show the slightest sign of being hit by either, though both bullets were seen to strike him in the flank, their course being towards the chest. On the second shot being fired, as the tiger lay stretched at full length with his head away from the sportsman, a man on a tree almost immediately over him called out that he was dead. The sportsman carelessly walked up to the tiger. In another moment his hand would have been on the body of the beast, when the tiger opened his eyes, and, with a roar, reared on his hind legs, his face close to the sportsman and his forepaws stretched over his head. To push the muzzle of the express into the brute's chest, pull the trigger of the second barrel, and fly down the hill was the work of a second. The whole affair, the roar of the tiger as he got off his legs, the shot, and the sportsman's flight was of startling suddenness. There was a general stampede of beaters. After a run of about thirty yards the sportsman joined his young companion. The tiger was heard to growl several times, and the stop in the tree above him called out that he had moved and lain down in a small dip or hollow hard by. Just then also the sportsman's personal *shikári* came up with the eight-bore gun which had been first fired and with spare cartridges for the express. He had been left to undo the ladder and the whole affair was so sudden that neither he nor the other sportsman had time to give any assistance.

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Both guns now went up together, and the tiger, though fired into before he had time to move, shortened the distance between himself and the guns by several yards in his endeavours to come on.

On examining the body, it was found that the first shot from the eight-bore had struck the tiger where the neck joins the head. It had cut through the flesh and grazing the bone had given a shock to the spine without breaking it. But for the two flank shots and the chest shot from the express the tiger would have gone away and have been little or none the worse.

For a successful season's tiger shooting the sportsman cannot depend on the chance of cattle being carried off near his camp. He must take with him a number of cattle to be tied up and used as baits. As villagers will not part with their cattle to be tied up as baits, thirty or forty head must be bought in some large market town and taken about with the camp. The cattle cost to buy from 12s. to 14s. (Rs. 6 - Rs. 7) a head and their keep comes to about 3d. (2 as.) a day each. It may seem cruel to tie up an animal to be killed by a tiger. But every tiger at large destroys not less than thirty to fifty head of cattle a year, and among the victims are choice milch and draught animals worth from £2 to £6 (Rs. 20 - Rs. 60). It is the custom to bait such places only as tigers frequent during their midnight prowls and where thick cover is near into which the tiger is likely to drag his kill.

The bait remains tied from four in the evening to seven in the morning. The people entrusted with the work are induced by a reward of 10s. (Rs. 5) for every kill to tie in the best places. If the bait is taken, the person who has tied it up either himself brings the news or sends some one to the camp. On his way the messenger tells the people of the villages he passes, who gladly turn out with the local *shikaris* and await the sportsman somewhere on the way to the kill. When the news reaches the camp one or two hours' law is given for the beaters to meet and for the guns to go ahead. Then the sportsman rides to the place and the beat is arranged.

Beating for tigers or other game is popular in Kánara. The difficulty is to keep too many people from coming. When there are two or more guns it is usual to let anyone come who chooses, and to pay them all, men and boys, 6d. (4 as.) each. If the beat is successful each of the local *shikaris* gets from £1 to £2 (Rs. 10 - Rs. 20), and the personal *shikari* who makes all the sporting arrangements gets 30s. (Rs. 15) for each large tiger, 12s. (Rs. 6) for each half-grown tiger, and 6s. (Rs. 3) for each cub. If nothing is killed the personal *shikari* gets nothing, but under no circumstances do the local *shikaris* ever get less than 4s. to 8s. (Rs. 2 - Rs. 4) each. The person who brings the news of the kill gets 4s. (Rs. 2). As the Government reward is £2 8s. (Rs. 24) for a full-grown tiger, £1 4s. (Rs. 12) for a half-grown tiger, and 12s. (Rs. 6) for a cub, it is needless to say that tiger shooting is expensive. But to be successful the sportsman must be liberal and kind and jolly with the people, whether they are beaters or *shikaris*. Both undoubtedly earn all that a sportsman can give them. They are marvels of patience and endurance throughout the heat and

fatigue of the day, and of great good humour at its close. Driving is in no way against the inclination of the people of Kánara. It is a pleasurable excitement which they enjoy as much as the sportsman. They will leave almost any work to join in a beat. Of most of the local *shikáris* it is not too much to say that though cautious at first, their confidence is easily gained, and that when they know a sportsman they will face any danger with him and are thoroughly to be trusted.

Besides in a regular beat tigers are sometimes found when stalking other game. When a tiger is found in stalking other game the sportsman goes a short distance ahead leaving a few men who move towards him making no noise beyond exchanging a word or two and here and there throwing a stone.

Tigers are also shot when coming to drink, or when returning at night to feed on a carcass. Shooting over water is seldom practised except by natives; but Europeans sometimes sit over a kill on the chance that the tiger will come back. A place is built in a tree some ten or twelve feet from the ground and about fifteen yards from the carcass. This though a tiresome and rather disappointing form of sport is not without attractions and difficulties. A tiger is very shy and cautious. He walks round his kill and watches it for some time before he approaches. The slightest noise frightens him and if frightened he either will not return at all or will wait till late in the night beyond the patience of a European.

Monkeys betray a tiger when he is on foot in a beat, or when he moves in the forests in search of food, or when he is coming to his kill in the evening. So also peafowl, junglefowl, and spurfowl all rise before a tiger with a scared cry not to be mistaken by those who know it. In Kánara, when a sportsman is stalking other game and hears monkeys swearing, he takes it as a sign that a tiger or a panther is near. By moving quickly and without noise towards the monkeys and by carefully watching their movements and the direction in which they are looking, he may often be rewarded by a shot. But noisy monkeys are not always a safe guide as they also swear jungle-dogs and jackals.

Tigers hunting together or a tigress with cubs, when one of them is shot, often remain in the same place calling for two or three days. This is a good opportunity for putting out a few traps, and one of them is sure to be taken. The call of a tiger to his mate is different from his *wouf* or his angry roar. It is soft and mournful, a tone which is perhaps most nearly represented by a long, low, hoarse *ahum*. The sound seems to roll along the ground, and at night and in favourable country may be heard more than a mile away. It is made as the animal is moving and is repeated at intervals of three minutes round a considerable area at odd times of the day or morning. Sometimes a tigress, when away from small cubs, will make this call even during the day as if to assure them she is near. It is not difficult to cut her off and shoot her when she is heard calling in this way during the day time.

As regards the number of cattle killed by tigers, returns are available only for the eight years ending 1882. During these eight

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years 6527 cattle are returned as killed by tigers, that is, an average yearly loss of 816 head.

Returns of the number of tigers killed are available for a considerably longer period. During the twenty-two years ending 1877, 510 tigers were killed and £860 (Rs. 8597) paid in rewards. Between 1856 and 1866, 158 tigers, or a yearly average of fourteen, were killed and between 1867 and 1877, 352 tigers, or a yearly average of thirty-two, were killed. The number of persons killed during the whole period of twenty-two years was, one European officer, Lieutenant Power of the 35th Madras Native Infantry, and forty-three of the natives of the district.

The details of the five years ending 1882 are as follows :

Kánara Tigers, 1878-1882.

YEAR.	Tigers killed.	Reward.	Persons killed.	Cattle killed.
1878 ...	22	£.		
1879 ...	13	51	2	1153
1880 ...	39	44	2	850
1881 ...	29	105	2	677
1882 ...	22	77	3	494
Total ...	130	323	10	4041
Average ...	26	65	2	808

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In Kánara panthers are especially common. There are no large caves or prickly-pear thickets, but there is the splendid cover of some 3500 square miles of almost unbroken forest in which they can choose homes and hunting grounds. Naturalists say and most sportsmen agree that there are two or more varieties of the panther. There is a larger animal six feet to seven feet eleven inches which is called the panther; and a smaller animal five feet six inches to six feet which is called the leopard. The panther is also supposed to be lighter in colour than the leopard, and unlike the leopard to keep aloof from villages and frequent low rocky hills in open ground rather than in forests. The black panther is also thought to be a distinct species. To the ordinary observer there does not appear any difference between the panther and the leopard; and there being in the appearance or habits of the pard to induce the belief that there are two or more varieties. Pards of both sizes equally often near villages in Kánara; and all alike frequent cattle, ponies, pig, donkeys, goats, deer, monkeys, and dogs. A pard over seven feet eight inches in length is considered an unusually large specimen. One measuring eight feet is said to have been shot near Siddápur a couple of years ago (1880), and several others nine feet nine inches have been killed. On the other hand a pard under five feet eight inches is thought small. Three black panthers have been shot in Kánara and a fourth has been seen. The colour of these animals can be due only to the accident of birth. If they are of a different variety from the ordinary panther, it is almost certain that others like them would have been seen during the last seventeen or eighteen years. The panther

like the tiger has no particular pairing season. Cubs have been taken at different periods of the year. The female, who has from two to four at a birth, deposits her young in the hollow of some large tree on the ground, or below some projecting rock, and they remain with her till they are fully as large as herself. The call of the panther is altogether unlike the tiger's call. It is a succession of short grunts as nearly as possible represented by the sounds '*Goorka-Goorka-Goorka*' repeated at short intervals, as he travels no doubt looking for his mate. This call is unlike the low angry grunt with which a panther delivers his charge, and it is worthy of note that a panther will sometimes charge without making any sound. Like the tiger the panther is roaming in his habits, and like him he has favourite haunts to which he returns time after time and where he stays for days. Some say that the panther dislikes water and hates even to wet his feet. But instances can be given of panthers dragging their prey or even swimming through water. They eat carrion or any rotten carcass.

The panther is hunted in the same way as the tiger. But he is far more cunning, and will sometimes lie in a small thicket or climb into some wide-spreading tree and let the beaters pass him. On two occasions in Kánara panthers have been shot out of trees. The panther, though he has nothing like the power of the tiger, is when wounded far braver and quicker in attack. Many cases have been known of most dashing charges in the thicket, in high tree forest, and in open ground. On three occasions panthers have been doubled up at the sportsman's feet, when in another second they would have seized. Even when unprovoked a panther will sometimes dash out and maul a single person or one of a party of three or four. Recently near Sámbrahi, between Yellápur and Haliyál, a panther sprang at a man and his wife who were walking along a forest pathway. The man was knocked over and the panther was on the top of him when the wife seized the axe which had fallen from her husband's hand and brained the panther, though unluckily too late to save her husband's life. In other cases panthers have been known to wound two or three men one after the other. A few months ago a wounded panther badly mauled three men who were following him up.

Wounds received from tigers and panthers are very dangerous and difficult to heal. Between the shock and the poison from their foul-feeding fangs few recover.

The Government reward is £1 4s. (Rs. 12) for a full-grown panther, 12s. (Rs. 6) for one half-grown, and 6s. (Rs. 3) for a cub. The returns of the wild animals killed in Kánara between 1856 and 1877 show that 591 panthers were slain, and £684 (Rs. 6840) paid in rewards. During this period eighteen people were killed. In the first of the two periods of eleven years, that is between 1856 and 1866, 253 panthers or a yearly average of twenty-three were killed, and, in the second period, between 1867 and 1877, 338 panthers, or a yearly average of thirty-one, were killed.

The following statement gives details for the five years ending 1882 :

Chapter II.**Production.****Wild Animals,
Panthers.***Kánara Panthers, 1878-1882.*

YEAR.	Panthers killed.	Rewards.	Persons killed.	Cattle killed.
1878 ...	32	45	...	472
1879 ...	40	76	...	273
1880 ...	43	58	...	339
1881 ...	57	73	1	255
1882 ...	42	36	8	278
Total ...	214	283	4	1617
Average ...	42	71	...	823

Leopard Cat.

The Leopard Cat, *Felis bengalensis, vagati*, is rarely seen in Kánara. It is a beautiful little animal, about three feet long and not unlike the panther in colour. One was shot out of a tree near Tinai in 1875. Unfortunately the specimen was spoiled by the express bullet breaking and tearing the skin almost to pieces. The natives say that this little animal is very fierce and lives on small deer, hares, peafowl, and jungle-fowl.

*Hunting Leopard
and Lynx.*

The Hunting Leopard, *Felis jubata, chita* or *chircha*, and the Lynx, *Felis caracal, shira-nái* or *chira-nái*, are unknown in Kánara. They are said to be found in parts of Kaládgi and in the Kod and Gadag hill ranges of Dhárwár, but they have not been recorded by any officer whose authority can be quoted. Some years ago when the antelope was common in the Belgaum and Dhárwár plains, hunting *chitás* were kept by the Nawáb of Sávanur and the chiefs of Mudhol.

Hyena.

The Hyena, *Hyæna striata, taras* (H.), *kattegirbu* (K.), is common in Belgaum, Kaládgi, Dhárwár, and Kánara. Though considered cowardly it kills donkeys goats and dogs. The hyena is often ridden down and speared, and in spite of its ungainly and apparently slow movements it often gives an excellent run. Since 1840 seventy-nine hyenas have been killed in Belgaum and seventeen in Kaládgi. The reward varies from 6s. to 10s. (Rs. 3 - Rs. 5).

Wolf.

The Wolf, *Canis pallipes, landgah* (H.), or *tola* (K.), is not known in Kánara. At one time it was numerous, and it is still found in some numbers in Dhárwár, Kaládgi, and Belgaum. The wolf chiefly preys on donkeys, sheep, goats, and antelope. But it is a bold animal, and three or four of them will lie out close to a herd of cattle and at once attack any that separates from the rest. They also sometimes kill human beings. The wolf has been ridden down and speared. This is justly considered a great feat. Many sportsmen contend that on such occasions the wolf must have been gorged. But at least one instance can be given in which an ungorgeed wolf was ridden down and speared. The returns show that since 1840 ten wolves have been killed in Belgaum and 1505 in Kaládgi.

Wild Dog.

The Wild Dog, *Kuon rutilans, kolsunda* (M.) *káda-nái* (K.), or *jangli kutta* (H.), is not found in Kaládgi, but is common in Dhárwár, Belgaum, and Kánara, especially in Kánara, where packs of twenty and upwards have been often seen. They grew very bold in the 1876-77 famine and killed great numbers of the half-starved cattle which were driven into the Kánara forests to graze. Since then a reward of 10s. (Rs. 5) has been paid for each full-grown animal

brought to the head-quarters of sub-divisions. Wild dogs are very destructive to deer of all kinds and to pig, which they regularly hunt. They are also said to attack tigers, but no instance of their having killed a tiger is known. At the same time it is a fact that the tiger will give up his kill to wild dogs and will leave a place in which there is any large number of wild dogs. It is also true that panthers will take to trees to escape from wild dogs. The people fear packs of wild dogs as much as they fear almost any animal. Cases of packs snarling and yapping round sportsmen and others when disturbed at their prey are well known.

The Jackal, *kolha*, *Canis aureus*, is numerous everywhere, even in the very heart of the forests. But the Fox, *lomri* or *sannakempa-nari* (K.), *Vulpes bengalensis*, is found only in the open country outside of Kánara.

The Porcupine, *Histrix leucura*, *sáler* or *mul-handi* (K.), is also found everywhere, especially in Kánara.

The Crocodile, *Crocodilus indicus*, *maggar* or *mosale*, and the Otter, *Lutra nair*, *panni kutta* or *nirnái* (K.), are occasionally found in rivers and large ponds. In the Kánara rivers they are especially common.

The Black Bear, *Ursus labiatus*, *karadi* or *asval*, was at one time found in great numbers in Kánara and Belgaum. It is fast becoming rare, except near the Sahyádris, and even there it is no longer numerous. Between 1840 and 1880 no fewer than 223 bears were killed in Belgaum. Of the whole number 137 were killed between 1840 and 1850; fifty-one between 1850 and 1860; thirty-two between 1860 and 1870; and three between 1870 and 1880. In Kánara fifty-one bears were slain between 1856 and 1882, and during that time twenty-two persons were killed by bears. Among the persons killed by bears in Kánara was Lord Edward Percy St. Muir, second son of the Duke of Somerset. This happened at Lálguli on the Kálinadi, on the 20th of December 1865. For Dhárwár there are no returns, but bears were formerly found in the Kod and Gadag hills, which are now almost bare even of scrub; they are still occasionally met in Bankápur and Hángal into which they no doubt stray from Kánara. Between 1844 and 1861, the bear was also found in Bágalkot, Hungund and Badámi in Kaládgi, twenty-five bears having been slain during those years. As far as the returns show no bear has been killed in Kaládgi since 1861. The bear is more feared in Kánara than almost any other animal. At least in Kánara it is a mistake to think that bears do not attack without provocation. In several cases both wounded and untouched bears have been known to charge in the bravest manner and with a startling grunt or roar. The bear is about six feet long and three feet high. It has two or three young at a birth, and, from an early age, the mother takes or carries the cubs on her back. No case of bears eating flesh has been recorded in Kánara though elsewhere bears have been known to eat flesh. Their chief food is the white-ant and larvæ of beetles, which they scratch out and suck from their nests. Bears also feed on many wild berries and are most partial to the jack fruit (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) and to *kakai* pods (*Cassia Fistula*). They are also said to be particularly fond of palm-juice and to

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climb into palm trees and empty the toddy jars. Bears, like tigers, are hunted by driving, or by sitting over their caves, though in Kánara bears rarely live in caves except during the rains. The time to sit over a cave-mouth is either in the very early morning when they return from feeding or about sunset when they come out. The best sport with bears is to track them in the early morning when the dew lies heavy on the long grass and the track is easily followed.

The Hog.

The Hog, *Sus indicus, dukar* or *handi*, is general everywhere. Immense boars are often found in the forests which would delight the hog hunter in anything like a riding country. In Bankápur in Dhárwár and from Lakshmeshvar and Shirhatti belonging to the Miraj and Sángli states west of the Kappatgudd hill, the country is perfectly rideable and first-rate sport may be got in the cold weather. Hog might also be ridden in parts of the Kod sub-division in Dhárwár. In Kaládgi wild hog have greatly increased since 1873 when the forests began to be conserved. The wild boar is found up to forty inches high and about six feet long. He is perhaps the pluckiest of animals. As a rule he dies game to the last, and whether it is made at the hog-hunter spear in hand, or at the sportsman from a thicket on foot, his rush is all that is mighty and gallant. His flesh is much esteemed by low class Hindus.

The Bison.

The Bison, *Gavæus Gaurus, káda-kona* or *gava*, is found over the greater part of Kánara, but from being so much shot at and from being subject to the diseases which prevail among domestic cattle in Kánara, it is disappoaring from many parts where it abounded fifteen or sixteen years ago. Formerly the bison was also found in considerable numbers about the Rámghát and Chorlághát, and in the south-west corner of the Bidi sub-division of Belgaum. Now it is rare everywhere, except in parts of Bidi where small herds are still found. Odd bison find their way into the Nágargáli and Kirpoli forests under the Sid pagoda during the rains, but only to return to Kánara as the season dries. It is said that many years ago a large bull was shot by the present Sir Frank Souter near to One Tree Hill about a mile and a half to the north of Belgaum. Stray bison from Kánara are also occasionally seen during the rains in the western limits of the Kalghatgi sub-division of Dhárwár; but except strangers, the bison is not found either in Dhárwár or in Kaládgi.

Bison are most numerous in Kánara along the Sahyádris and in the forests through which the Kálínadi, Bedtihalla, Gangávali, and Tadri pass. They were especially common about sixteen years ago in the Gund forests, and between Gund and Anshi, as well as along the Káneri river which rises in the Kundal hills and joins the Kálínadi opposite Nirsol in Yellápur. Two outbreaks of the cattle disease which is now prevalent in the Ankola forests, destroyed great numbers of them.

The bison is generally a rich dark brown, gradually changing to a dirty white underneath. But the old bulls, which are magnificent animals, much larger and more massively built than the cows, grow almost black, and lose most of the hair on the upper part of the body. The older a bull-bison grows the blacker and balder he

becomes ; and the skin gives out a nasty oily sweat. Below the knees and hocks the legs both of bulls and cows are white, four dirty white stockings, while the shape and pointing of the hoof is so well marked and so unlike the hoof of the tame cow or buffalo as to make it easy for the initiated to track a bison through a herd of tame cattle. The bison has no hump. The dorsal ridge rises gradually backwards some five inches above the shoulder and then falls suddenly about the middle of the back. This gives the animal the appearance of enormous strength in front and of weak and drooping hind-quarters, though when closely examined his hind-quarters are found to be free from this defect.

The head of the bull is much broader and more massive than the cow's head. The forehead in both is grey approaching a dirty white and in both the lower part of the face is black to near the muzzle which is grey or light lavender. Among the older animals the bull's horns are very much larger than the cow's horns. The bull's horns, which are massive throughout, are broad, rugged, and ringed to about one-third of their length from the base, and have a wide sweep and broken or blunted points. The horns of the cow are smooth and ringless, slenderer and more upright with an inward curve towards the tips. Some very old bulls have rather upright, short, rugged, and massive horns curving in more or less, and ringed from the base nearly up to the curve. Others have very horizontal horns like the arms of a man raised to the level of his shoulders and bending slightly at the elbows, the hand at the wrist being turned up and the fingers forming a curve from the knuckles pointing inwards. Horns of this kind are also very flat particularly in front. A good bull varies in height from five feet eight inches to six feet two inches, and the width across the widest sweep of the horns is from thirty-two to forty inches.

Bison are seldom seen in herds of more than ten or fifteen, and, except during the rutting season between October and December, no really large bulls are found with the herds. Except at the pairing season most large bulls do not stay with the cows but prefer either a lonely life or the society of one or more other bulls. It is the general belief in Kánara that the solitary bulls found in the fair season and the earlier rains have not been driven from the herd by the younger bulls, but that they leave of their own accord and meet the cows at pleasure or when the breeding season begins. Some solitary bulls are no doubt aged animals which have been driven away by younger rivals. But experience in stalking herds supports the belief that most solitary bulls are solitary from choice. The bulls found with herds of cows are so rarely of full size and vigour that it is difficult to believe that they really are the lords and masters of the cows to the exclusion of the magnificent bulls of noble proportions and full vigour of life who are met alone. If the sportsman wants a prize let him look to the solitary bull, not to a herd which may end in his shooting some young beast or a cow. When disturbed, bison are particularly shy and difficult to approach, and the extreme acuteness of their sense of smell often prevents surprise. They are also quick

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in finding that they are followed. This is shown by their taking down wind and breaking away time after time just out of sight of the sportsman simply from scenting danger in the currents of air brought to them from their pursuers. On the other hand, where they are seldom molested, on any sudden alarm they will crowd together in the utmost confusion, and if the sportsman is so inclined will give him the chance of shooting down three or four of them before they have time to recover and make off. When suddenly alarmed bison give one short hissing kind of snort and then turn and dash away. Bison feed chiefly on grasses and creepers. During the hot months they also eat many leaves and berries, the fruit of the *aula*, *Phyllanthus Emblica*, and the *karmal*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, being especial favourites. They are also very fond of hot weather rice, which has to be carefully guarded against them. During the rains juicy young bamboo shoots are their favourite food. About this time they frequent the salt licks which are common in every part of Kánara, the natron and soda of the salt licks being, as Jerdon says, as essential to the well-doing of the bison as common salt is to domestic cattle when kept in hilly tracts. A salt lick is about the best place to which a sportsman can go in the early morning to find and take up the fresh foot-mark of some old bull.

Bison are hunted either by being driven towards the sportsman by a number of beaters, or by the sportsman with a couple of good guides looking for them in their haunts in the early morning, and if not found there, taking up the foot-prints of some herd or of a solitary bull and tracking them to where they lie for the day. They are also shot in the evening when coming to drink or to feed. Bison are seldom driven except where the cover is so close and thorny that they cannot be got at in any other way. A drive for bison is managed in much the same way as a drive for tiger, only bison are not driven to the guns so easily as tigers. When aroused by shouts bison as a rule feel their way quietly to the front. In doing so they make short rushes backwards or to one side as they scent danger in the air. When their suspicions that there is danger in front or to one side are fairly roused, nothing will induce them to go in that direction. They will stand still and await the near approach of the beaters and then break right through the shouting mob rather than face the unseen danger in front. Bison would not be driven at all if they did not sometimes break to the front and give a shot, but as a rule, owing to the sagacity of the animal, beats for bison are unsuccessful. In a forest and among hills the wind is never steady. The air eddies and circles, and this is the secret why the bison is able to outwit the best sportsman. In beating for bison the sportsman should be prepared for disappointment and should not lay the blame on the local *shikaris* who will always do their best.

The sport of all sports is tracking the bison in their native wilds, either finding them feeding in the early morning or lying in their midday lairs. When the track takes over and round hills and across jolly valleys and streams the tracking is always pleasant, and pleasure passes to the keenest excitement and joy when a tuft of newly eaten grass or fresh warm droppings show that the

bison is near. If in luck, the sportsman may win his trophy early and be back in camp in good time, fresh and full of hope for the next day. Sometimes he may have to track on to a late hour, but even then the trophy sweetens the toil and the miles back to camp are walked with a light heart. It also sometimes happens that the deep shades of the evening stop further tracking and leave a dark walk home of many weary miles. The only consolation is that all was done that could be done, and admiration for the quickness and sagacity of the noble bison. In spite of blank weary days such fascinations has bison tracking that the sportsman will toil day after day. When a bison is reached and seen it is well not to be in a hurry. If the animal tracked proves to be one of a herd, it is usual to work about the herd to find out the bull whose largo foot-prints have been followed. If the animal tracked proves to be a solitary bull, look for a good shot, the centre of the forehead if he happens to be facing the gun, and the neck or behind the shoulder if he is broadside on. A bison will at once drop to the head or neck shot, and if hit properly behind the shoulder, will not go far before he pulls up and gives another chance. Nine inches below the top of the dorsal ridge over the shoulder will also at once drop a bison when he can be despatched with the second shot. Bison have been dropped right and left with a 500 express to this shot. When not mortally wounded a bull will travel a long way and give great trouble. He will take to the very closest thickets and have to be followed through them, and after he is well worried and perhaps once or twice hit, he will lie very close and probably charge. As it is difficult to stop a charging bull or cow, for when provoked a cow will charge as readily as a bull, the protection of a tree or however small a clump of bamboos should be sought. There is abundant proof of bison charging in Kánara. On three occasions sportsmen have been knocked down, and five instances are known in which *shikáris* and trackers were knocked over and hurt. Dozens of instances can also be given of most deliberate and well delivered charges which were avoided by stepping behind a tree.

The Sámbar, *Rusa Aristotelis*, *kadavi* or *meru*, is common over most of Kánara, especially near the Sahyádris. It is also found in the Belgaum Sahyádris and a few probably stray animals from Kánara occur in Kalghatgi in Dhárwár; it is not known in Kaládgí. The sámbar is nowhere so numerous as it was ten or fifteen years ago. The cause of this is the great increase in the number of guns. There is scarcely a village that has not its one or more guns licensed or unlicensed. During the dry season, especially in moon-light nights, from almost any camp in the district shots may be heard.

Sámbar.

The native way of shooting sámbar, spotted deer, small deer, and pig is to dig a hole close to some forest pool and screening the edge with thorn, to sit in the hole, and shoot. Natives do not venture to shoot at tigers, panthers, or bears except from trees. If there is a chance of these larger animals coming to drink, the hole is protected by laying logs of wood across the mouth leaving a small opening from which to shoot. When the fruit of the *aula* *Phyllan-*

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thus Emblica, the *karmal* Dillenia pentagyna, the *goting* Terminalia bellerica, and the *ambára* Spondias Mangifera, ripens and begins to fall, natives make seats or *mecháns* in the tree and from them shoot sámbar and other deer as they come to eat. This is deadly work. With the increase in the number of guns and the use of percussion guns instead of flint and matchlocks it must end in the destruction of deer.

The people of one or more villages often join and beat their forests for sámbar, deer, and pig. This is fair sport and is not discouraged. But during the dry season pot-hunting loafers from other districts come into the forests and make it a business to shoot deer and pig from holes and trees, making money from the sale of the flesh. Sámbar are hunted by sportsmen in much the same way as bison. They are either stalked or looked for in the forests in the grey of the morning or evening, or they are driven by beaters. When driven by beaters sámbar show all the sagacity and instinct of the bison. They will dash through the line of howling beaters rather than face the unseen danger in front or to one side which they have scented in the air. The sámbar stag is all over a noble-looking beast standing thirteen to fourteen hands high at the shoulder. In colour he is a dark slate or grayish black, and like the old bull bison the upper part of the body is sometimes nearly bald. The female or hind is much lighter in colour. The Kánara rutting season is believed to begin in the middle or towards the close of the cold season. But young are met with in most months of the year. It is thought that sámbar begin to shed their horns early in April, but it is not believed that stags shed their horns every year, only once in two if not three years. An instance of a stag shedding its horns occurred at Barchi near Supa in April 1871. A sportsman out stalking came upon a large stag with fine horns. The animal was lying down and looking towards him. On receiving the shot the stag jumped on his legs and made off, but the sportsman's dogs raced him into a pool of water within 200 yards. To his amazement the sportsman found the stag with a bullet in his chest but with no horns. The trail was taken up and after a run of about eighty yards one horn was found and then the other, where he was shot at and scrambled on his legs. Kánara and Belgaum sámbar horns as a rule are not large. The following are the measurements of the finest pair that can be produced: Length of horn 34"; round the horn 9"; above the horn 8"; widest sweep of horn 30"; between points 24"; upper tine 13"; lower tine 10". Two larger heads have been seen, but the measurements are not available. They were heavier and perhaps two or three inches longer. One of them belonged to a particularly fine and noble-looking stag which was killed by Lieutenant Hughes, of the 2nd Queen's (Royal), in April or May 1876.

Spotted Deer.

The Spotted Deer, Axis maculatus, best known under the native name of *chittal*, was at one time numerous over the whole of Kánara. From the destruction caused by pot-hunting *shikáris* shooting at drinking pools and from fruit trees it is now scarce. Ten or fifteen years ago the spotted deer was most abundant throughout the

valleys of the Kálinadi, Bedthalla, Gangávali, and Tadri, as well as all along the east of the district, and at most places two to three stags could be shot in a morning stalk.

At Dandeli in 1867 from a herd of not less than 150 to 200, three splendid stags were picked out and shot in a few moments. Now, about the same place, the sportsman has had a lucky morning if he sees a small herd or two and gets one stag. Spotted deer were at one time numerous in the Dhárwár forests along the Kánara frontier, but, as in Kánara, they are now scarce. The same may be said of the Belgaum *chittal*. The pot-hunting native *shikáris* with licensed or unlicensed guns, and some of the Government armed servants at posts throughout the district are responsible for the disappearance of the *chittal*. Both alike shoot over water and from trees, and both alike kill for the purpose of selling the flesh. A spotted deer or a large boar fetches 10s. to 16s. (Rs. 5-Rs. 8). If fairly stalked the spotted deer can take care of itself. But if some check is not put on shooting does at certain seasons, this beautiful animal, to the real grief of the forest people, will soon be killed off. This is Jerdon's first-rate description of the spotted deer : 'The general colour is yellow or rufous-fawn with numerous white spots, and a dark dorsal streak from the nape to the tail. The head is brownish and the muzzle dark. The chin, throat, and neck in front are white ; the lower parts and the inside of the thighs are whitish ; the outside of the ears is brown and the inside white ; the tail is longish and white beneath. The basal tine is directed forwards, and in old animals has often one or two points near the base. The length is about four and a half to nearly five feet ; the height at the shoulder is from thirty-six to thirty-eight inches.'

Like the sámbar the spotted deer is difficult to drive, though not so difficult as the bison or sámbar. But the charm of deer-shooting is stalking the stags through the beautiful glades and forest openings in the gray of the morning. The rutting season is believed to begin towards the close of the cold season and to go on till the end of May. About the end of May 1881 a male and female were specially noticed. Still many stags shed their horns and are found in velvet in the period between March and May. It is believed that like the sámbar the *chittal* stag does not shed its horns oftener than once in three years. The flesh of the spotted deer is very dry, but the head and feet are worthy of a place on the table. The greatest known length of a Kánara spotted deer's antlers is thirty-five inches. Any heads of thirty inches and over are considered good. The spotted deer's antlers have rarely fewer than six points, nine have been frequently seen, and one is recorded of eleven.

The Rib-faced or Barking Deer, *Cervulus aureus*, *bakra* (M.), or *advikuri* (K), gets its name of rib-faced from two curious dark lines down the face, and its name of barking deer from its hoarse loud cry when disturbed or alarmed. It is found all over Kánara, its favourite haunt being the dark groves of high evergreen forests and the thick patches of *kárvi* (*Strobilanthes*) that cover the Sahyádri slopes.

The barking deer is also found in the hills of western Belgaum ;

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Rib-faced or Barking Deer.

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Barking Deer.

it is rare in Dhárwár, and is not known in Kaládgi. Jerdon describes the barking deer as in colour a bright rufous bay, the inside of the limbs and below the tail white, and the chin and lower jaws whitish. In front of the fetlocks of all four legs are some white spots. The facial creases are dark-brown. The average length of body is three and a half feet and of tail is seven inches. The height is twenty-six to twenty-eight inches and the horns are from eight to ten inches long. The doe is a little smaller and has tufts of bristly hair on a knob in the spot where the buck has his horns. To this description it may be added that the three inches of horn next the head are covered with bristly red hair, and that the points form a hook backwards; also that there is a small tine just above the red hair. The barking deer is not difficult to drive, and it may be met with grazing in the morning and evening close outside of the deep forest or thicket which it makes its home. It is almost always alone even two being rarely seen together. Whether stealing silently through the cover, or bounding across some open glade, the head and neck are carried singularly low and the hind quarters raised. The flesh is dark and thought better than the flesh of the spotted deer.

Mouse Deer.

The Mouse Deer, *Memimna indica*, *pisai*, is very common in Kánara and in the western Belgaum forests. It has not been noticed in Dhárwár and does not occur in Kaládgi. Like the barking deer it is seldom seen except alone, and the dark evergreen forests and the *kúrví* (*Strobilanthus*) cover of the Sahyádris are its favourite resorts. Jerdon's description correctly applies to the Kánara mouse deer. The colour above is olive mixed with yellow gray; below it is white. On the sides of the body are yellowish white lines formed of interrupted spots, whose upper rows are joined by some transverse spots to rows on the opposite side; the ears are reddish brown; the length of body is from twenty-two to twenty-three inches; and the length of tail one and a half inches; the height varies from ten to twelve inches; and the weight from five to six pounds. The flesh is very white and is seldom eaten except by Hindus. Musalmáns do not eat it; they say it is too like the pig. It is said to rut in June and July and to have two young at a birth.

Four-horned Antelope.

The Four-horned Antelope, *Tetraceros quadricornis*, *kurunj* or *chausingha*, is sparingly met in Kánara, Belgaum, and Dhárwár; it has not been noticed in Kaládgi. Unlike the barking deer it does not live in heavy forests, being seen only in the more open and bushy parts. Its gait or manner of bounding, with its head and neck low, is very like that of the barking deer. The flesh is also similar. Jerdon describes it as of a uniform brownish colour, bay above, lighter beneath, and whitish inside the limbs, and in the middle of the belly. The fore-legs are dark, also the muzzle and edge of the ears which are white within with long hairs. The fetlocks are dark within with more or less distinct whitish rings. The length of body is from forty to forty-two inches; and the tail is five inches long; the ears are four and a half inches long; the height at the shoulder is two feet to twenty-six inches, and a little more at the croup. The anterior horns are one and a half inches long and the posterior horns from four to five.

The Indian Gazelle, *Gazella Bennettii*, *chinkára*, is not found in Kánara. It occurs, though sparingly, in the open hilly parts of Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Kaládgi, and where there is brushwood and small trees. It is not a forest-loving animal. In the Kod and Gadag hill ranges of Dhárwár herds of seven and eight have been seen, but they are shy and difficult to get at if they once see the sportsman. Jerdon describes the Indian gazelle as of a deep fawn, brown above and darker where it joins the white on the sides and buttocks ; the chin, breast, lower parts, and buttocks are white. The tail, knee, tufts, and fetlocks are black. There is a dark brown spot on the nose, and a dark line from the eyes to the mouth, bordered by a light line above. The length of a buck is three and half a feet; and the tail eight and a half inches; and the height twenty-six inches at the shoulder and twenty-eight inches at the croup. The ears are six inches long, the head nine inches, and the horns from twelve to thirteen. The horns of the female are small, rarely more than six inches and usually between four and five. They are slender, slightly wrinkled at the base, and incline backwards with the tip bent forwards.

The Indian Antelope, *Antilope bezoartica*, *haran* or *chigri*, is common in the plains but does not occur in Kánara. At one time antelopes were found in great numbers from one end to the other of the Dhárwár plains and to a less extent in Kaládgi and the north of Belgaum. It is now scarce everywhere, but is commoner in the south of Dhárwár than elsewhere. The black buck is a beautiful animal, and it is not difficult to get within 120 or 130 yards of him so long as he is approached in an in-and-out sort of way. With patience this way of approach rarely fails. The does as a rule are the first to take alarm, and when a doe is noticed stamping her foot or showing any other sign of disturbance, the sportsman should gradually draw away in such a manner that the herd will at once understand that the object of their alarm is going from, not coming towards them. The black buck's horns are seldom more than twenty inches long. Perhaps the largest pair ever seen in Kánara belonged to the late Mr. Sharkey of the Civil Service. They were good twenty seven inches, but they were brought from Gujarát not killed in the Kánarese districts. When black buck are fighting they are easily approached, and it is sometimes also easy to get near them, when the buck is intent on keeping the does from going to join some rival's herd. It is curious to notice this and also to see how does are allowed to join a herd while the buck is driven off. Such domestic changes and disorders are the sportsman's opportunity.

Jerdon describes the Indian antelope as with long horns diverging, with five flexures in old individuals, with strong rings at the base and smooth tips. The colour of the grown male, above and on the sides, is a rich dark glossy brown ; beneath and inside of the limbs they are white ; the hindhead, nape, and back of the neck are a hoary yellow ; the nose and lips and a large mark round the eyes are white ; the length of the body is about four feet and of the tail seven inches. The height at the shoulder is thirty-two inches, and the ear is five and a half inches long ; the horns are twenty to

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